

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims replaces all prior listings and versions of the claims in this application.

1. (Original) A concatemerized double-stranded oligonucleotide molecule comprising at least two copies of a nucleotide sequence comprising a sequence or sequences that act as transcription factor decoys.
2. (Currently amended) A transcription factor decoy comprising a concatemerized double-stranded oligonucleotide molecule comprising at least two end-to-end repeated copies of a nucleotide sequence comprising a sequence or sequences that act as transcription factor decoys.
3. (Currently amended) A combinatorial transcription factor decoy comprising a concatemerized double-stranded oligonucleotide molecule comprising at least two end-to-end nucleotide sequences comprising two different sequences that act as transcription factor decoys for 2 two or more transcription factors.
4. (Currently amended) The transcription factor decoy of claim 1, further comprising at least one tissue-specific promoter.
5. (Currently amended) The transcription factor decoy of claim 1, wherein the decoy is capable of blocking signaling and gene expression associated with pathogenesis.
6. (Currently amended) The transcription factor decoy of claim 1, wherein the decoys are NF- κ B-specific.
7. (Currently amended) The transcription factor decoy of claim 1, wherein the transcription factor is selected from NF- κ B, AP-1, ATF2, ATF3, and SP1.
8. (Currently amended) A method of delivering transcription factor decoys *in vitro* or *in vivo*, in isolated cells or intact animals, comprising ~~comprising~~ contacting a cell with a concatemerized double-stranded oligonucleotide molecule comprising at least two end-to-end repeated copies of a nucleotide sequence comprising a sequence or sequences that act as transcription factor decoys.
9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 8 wherein the transcription factor decoys block transcription factors implicated in a disease, response to surgery and/or trauma, developmental defects, aging, or toxic exposure.

10. (Currently amended) The method of claim 8 wherein the ~~method is a treatment is for the treatment of~~ one or more of the diseases selected from the group consisting of myocardial ischemia/reperfusion and myocardial infarction, heart failure and hypertrophy, cardioprotection, stroke, neuroprotection, sepsis, arthritis, asthma, heritable inflammatory disorders, cancer, heritable immune dysfunctions, inflammatory processes, whether caused by disease or injury or infection, and oxidative stress to any organ whether caused by disease, surgery or injury.
11. (Currently amended) A method for treatment of NF- κ B-associated diseases which comprises administering to an animal an effective amount of a polynucleotide NF- κ B chromosomal binding site decoy which antagonizes NF- κ B-mediated transcription of a gene located downstream of a NF- κ B binding site, wherein the polynucleotide comprises one or more ~~copy~~ copies of the oligonucleotide decoy.
12. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 11 wherein the NF- κ B-associated disease is selected from the group consisting of ~~of~~ of an ischemic disease, an inflammatory disease, and an autoimmune disease.
13. (Original) The method according to claim 11 wherein the NF- κ B-associated disease is an ischemic disease.
14. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 11 wherein the NF- κ B-associated disease is selected from the group consisting of ~~of~~ of a reperfusion disorder in ischemic disease, aggravation of a prognosis of an organ transplantation, aggravation of a prognosis of an organ surgery, and post-PTCA ~~restenosis~~ restenosis.
15. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 11 wherein the NF- κ B-associated disease is selected from the group consisting of ~~of~~ of a reperfusion disorder in ischemic heart disease, aggravation of a prognosis of a heart transplantation, aggravation of a prognosis of a heart surgery, and post PTCA ~~restenosis~~ restenosis.
16. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 11 wherein the NF- κ B-associated disease is selected from the group consisting of ~~of~~ of a cancer metastasis, a cancer invasion, and cachexia.
17. (Currently amended) A method of treating a ~~nuclear factor~~ NF- κ B-dependent disease selected from the group consisting of immunological disorders, septic shock, transplant rejection, radiation damage, reperfusion injuries after ischemia, arteriosclerosis and neurodegenerative

diseases, comprising administering to a mammal in need of such treatment an effective amount of an oligonucleotide decoy comprising one or more copies of a transcription factor binding site.

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein the nuclear factor- κ B-dependent disease is an immunological disorder.

20. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein the nuclear factor- κ B-dependent disease is septic shock.

21. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein the nuclear factor- κ B-dependent disease is transplant rejection.

22. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein the nuclear factor- κ B-dependent disease is radiation damage.

23. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein the nuclear factor- κ B-dependent disease is reperfusion injury after ischemia.

24. (Original) The method of claim 17 wherein the nuclear factor- κ B-dependent disease is arteriosclerosis.

25. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the nuclear factor- κ B-dependent disease is a neurodegenerative disease.

26. (Original) The method according to claim 11 wherein the administering inhibits cell death and apoptosis in ischemic-reperfused myocardium.

27. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 11 wherein the administering inhibits apoptosis in ischemic-reperfused brain, thereby reducing neuronal cell death in stroke.

28. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 11 wherein the administering inhibits apoptosis in the failing heart, thereby reducing apoptosis and cell death in congestive heart failure and cardiomyopathy.

29. (Currently amended) A therapeutic method comprising treating non-aortal procedural vascular trauma comprising administering to a mammal, subjected to the procedural vascular trauma, an effective protective amount of an oligonucleotide decoy, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof comprising one or more copies of a NF- κ B binding site.